



Special Edition: The MCDHH Staff

Executive Director



Opeoluwa Sotonwa

Mr. Opeoluwa Sotonwa joined the MCDHH staff on July, 2014 as the Executive Director. He was formerly with the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH), where he coordinated statewide advocacy referrals for deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians. Mr. Sotonwa has been involved with disability rights issues since becoming a lawyer in Nigeria. He also holds a LL.M. (Master of Laws) from the Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C., where he graduated Cum Laude.

Mr. Sotonwa is currently the Vice President of National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA). He also serves as the Chair of the NBDA Board of Directors as well as several key committees within the NBDA, including the Bylaws, Media and Communication, Advocacy and Policy committees. In addition to his service with NBDA, he is a member of the Diversity Committee within the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD). Mr. Sotonwa is a member of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), as well as several think-tank organizations that focus on disability rights advocacy.

By virtue of his position as the Executive Director, he is a permanent member of Relay Missouri Advisory Committee, Missouri Department of Mental Health Deaf Advisory Council, and Missouri Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project Advisory Committee. A consummate advocate; Mr. Sotonwa brings a lot of passion and a constituent-centered leadership approach to the Commission.



Office Support Specialist



Laurie Lister

Laurie Lister was born and raised in Jefferson City. She graduated from Jefferson City High School and married her high school sweetheart, Larry in 1985. They have three grown children and 4 beautiful grand children. She worked for DESE for the past 6 years as the administrative assistant for the Superintendent of Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled. She enjoys scrapbooking, card making and crafting. She also loves to spend weekends with the family and especially their grand babies.

MICS Coordinator



Dee Sanfilippo

Ms. Sanfilippo joins the MCDHH staff on February 23, 2015 as the MICS Coordinator. She recently served as Monitoring Specialist for the Missouri Office of Homeland Security and Senior Grant Specialist for the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency. She has been involved in program administration since 1983, holding positions in Strategic Planning, Program Administration, Training, Program Coordination, and Communication, as well as serving as Executive Director in the fields of Mental Health and Nonprofit services. Ms. Sanfilippo received BS in Journalism and Master of Public Administration degrees from the University of Kansas. She has certifications in Grant Management and Meeting Facilitation, and has studied American Sign Language and Interpreting, serving as a member of the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.



Christopher Ludvigsen

Christopher Ludvigsen is the Community Support Liaison for Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of hearing. He is a native of St. Louis, Missouri and a graduate of Brentwood High School. He is an alumnus of Gallaudet University located in Washington, D.C., where he received his B.S. in Business Administration in 2008. He was President of the Greater St. Louis Chapter (GSLC) under Missouri Association of the Deaf (MoAD) before coming into this position. Chris has completed his study for M.A. in Management & Leadership from Webster University in October of 2014. He went to Australia during his sophomore year of High School and would like to go back to visit again one day.



Crystal Anderson

Crystal Anderson holds MICS Comprehensive certification and CI/CT certification from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. She graduated from William Woods University with a Bachelors of Arts in Sign Language Interpretation in 2001. After becoming certified and licensed she began working as a freelance interpreter in the mid-Missouri area. Crystal has also worked as a staff interpreter for an interpreting agency, interpreted in a Missouri school district, as well as managed a call center for Sorenson Communications. She has interpreted in many settings such as educational, VRS, VRI, medical and platform. Crystal brings both knowledge and experience to the job, having served as a member of the Missouri Interpreter Conference Planning Committee and as an evaluator for the Missouri Interpreter Certification System for a number of years.